

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 4, 6, 8 through 16, 18 and 19 are now pending in the application. Claim 7 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended and Claims 18 and 19 have been added. Bases for the amendments and support for the new claims may be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Applicant initially notes that Claims 1 and 11, the only independent claims in the present application, have been amended to include a lock that is employed to fixedly but removably couple the body and the attachment together. Claim 1 recites that the lock “provides an operator of the power tool with a tool-less means by which the operator may couple the attachment to the body”. Similarly Claim 11 includes a lock with first and second lock portions and recites that “the second lock portion [is] configured to engage the first lock portion in response to a manual input applied from a hand of an operator of the power tool, the manual input being applied directly to the lock”.

Applicant notes that the combination of U.S. Patent No. 4, 905,423 to Van Laere and U.S. Patent No. 4,274,304 to Curtiss cannot teach or suggest Applicant’s invention, as neither the ‘423 patent to Van Laere or the ‘304 patent to Curtiss employs or suggests a manually actuable lock for releasably coupling an attachment to a body. In this regard, the ‘423 patent to Van Laere employs one or more threaded fasteners to

secure a speed reducing unit (1) and a motor unit (11). Specifically, Figures 34 and 35 of the '423 patent illustrate a chuck attachment that is secured to the motor unit via a plurality of threaded fasteners (178, 179), Figure 37 illustrates a grinder attachment that is secured to a motor unit via a plurality of threaded fasteners (178) in a manner that is similar to that which is shown in Figures 34 and 35, and Figures 38 and 39 illustrate a hedge trimming attachment that may be secured to the motor unit via a clamping ring (236). In this latter example, the clamping ring is compressed about the motor unit via a threaded fastener (235). Accordingly, the '423 patent to Van Laere does not teach or suggest a power tool with a lock that permits an operator to secure an attachment to a body in a tool tool-less manner.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant submits that Claims 1 through 4, 6, 8 through 16, 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and that the case be passed to issue.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 12, 2003

By:



Michael D. Zalobsky
Reg. No. 45,512

HARNESS, DICKY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600